

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A network configuration method comprising:

a first link establishing step of establishing, between an access point device and a client terminal, a wireless communication link through a first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process ~~between an access point device and a client terminal~~;

a sending step of sending ~~the~~ authentication data from said access point device to said client terminal in a state where the wireless communication link through said first encrypted communication is established;

a link discarding step of discarding the wireless communication link through said first encrypted communication between said access point device and said client terminal in response to the ~~after~~ sending of the ~~said~~ authentication data at said sending step; and

a second link establishing step of establishing, between said access point device and said client terminal, a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication that requires ~~requiring~~ an authentication process using the authentication data sent to said client terminal continually ~~after~~ discarding the link at said link discarding step.

2. (Currently Amended) A network configuration method for a

communication apparatus, comprising:

a first link establishing step of establishing between the communication apparatus and another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process ~~with another communication apparatus~~;

a sending step of the communication apparatus sending ~~the~~ authentication data to said another communication apparatus in a state where the wireless link at said first link establishing step is established;

a link discarding step of discarding the wireless communication link established at said first link establishing step between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus in response to the ~~after~~ sending of said authentication data at said sending step; and

a second link establishing step of establishing a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication, that requires ~~requiring~~ an authentication process using the authentication data sent to said another communication apparatus, between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus, continually ~~after~~ discarding the link at said link discarding step.

3. (Currently Amended) The network configuration method according to claim 2, further comprising a selection step of selecting a communication apparatus permitting said second encrypted communication from among other communication apparatuses with which a link is established at said first link establishing step, wherein said sending step sends the ~~said~~ authentication data to said communication apparatus selected at said selection step.

4. (Currently Amended) The network configuration method according to claim 3, wherein said selection step comprises making said selection on the basis of ~~the~~ a user operation.

5. (Currently Amended) The network configuration method according to claim 2, further comprising a selection step of selecting a communication apparatus permitting said second encrypted communication from among other communication apparatuses with which a link is established at said first link establishing step, and a filter setting step of setting ~~the~~ address filtering based on ~~[[a]]~~ the selection at said selection step.

6. (Currently Amended) The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein said second link establishing step comprises establishing ~~[[a]]~~ the wireless communication link through said second encrypted communication in accordance with an authentication result from said authentication process.

7. (Original) The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein the authentication in said authentication process is performed by said communication apparatus.

8. (Original) The network configuration method according to claim 2, further comprising a creation step of creating the authentication data sent at said sending step.

9. (Original) The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein said communication apparatus is an access point.

10. (Currently Amended) The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein the said authentication data sent at said sending step is effective for a fixed period of time.

11. (Currently Amended) A network configuration method for a communication apparatus, comprising:

a first link establishing step of establishing, between the communication apparatus and another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process ~~with another communication apparatus~~;

a receiving step of receiving ~~the~~ authentication data from said another communication apparatus in a state where the wireless communication link at said first link establishing step is established;

a link discarding step of discarding the wireless communication link established at said first link establishing step between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus in response to the ~~after~~ receiving of said authentication data at said receiving step; and

a second link establishing step of establishing, between the communication apparatus and the another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication that requires ~~requiring~~ an authentication

process using the authentication data received from said another communication apparatus, continually ~~after~~ discarding the link at said link discarding step.

12. (Original) The network configuration method for a communication apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the authentication in said authentication process is performed by said another communication apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

first link establishing means for establishing, between an access point device and a client terminal, a wireless communication link through a first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process ~~between an access point device and a client terminal~~;

sending means for sending ~~the~~ authentication data from said access point device to said client terminal in a state where the wireless communication link through said first encrypted communication is established;

link discarding means for discarding the wireless communication link through said first encrypted communication between said access point device and said client terminal in response to the sending of the ~~after said~~ authentication data ~~is sent~~ by said sending means; and

second link establishing means for establishing, between the access point device and the client terminal, a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication that requires ~~requiring~~ an authentication process using the authentication data sent to said client terminal, continually discarding ~~after the link is discarded~~ by said

link discarding means.

14. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first link establishing means for establishing, between the communication apparatus and another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process ~~with another communication apparatus~~;

sending means for sending ~~the~~ authentication data to said another communication apparatus in a state where the wireless communication link is established by said first link establishing means;

link discarding means for discarding the wireless communication link established by said first link establishing means between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus, in response to the sending of the ~~after said~~ authentication data ~~is sent~~ by said sending means; and

second link establishing means for establishing, between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication ~~that requires~~ requiring an authentication process using the authentication data sent to said another communication apparatus, continually after discarding the link ~~is discarded~~ by said link discarding means.

15. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus, comprising:

first link establishing means for establishing, between said communication apparatus and another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a

first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process ~~with another communication apparatus;~~

receiving means for receiving ~~the~~ authentication data from said another communication apparatus in a state where the wireless communication link is established by said first link establishing means;

link discarding means for discarding the wireless communication link established by said first link establishing means between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus in response to the receiving of the ~~after said~~ authentication data ~~is received~~ by said receiving means; and

second link establishing means for establishing, between said communication apparatus and said another communication apparatus, a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication that requires ~~requiring~~ an authentication process using the authentication data received from said another communication apparatus, continually discarding ~~after the link is discarded~~ by said link discarding means.